

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 23.11.16

WATCH update

Albury-Wodonga's Sustainable Living Festival

What a terrific month it's been on the home front! The WATCH stall was very busy during the November 'going green' Twilight Market (attended by around 2,500 people) with our WATCHWORD list boosted to around 850 subscribers. And last week, over 200 hundred people attended Ross Garnaut and Richard Turner's presentation on the Paris climate agreement and the future of battery storage.

Climate Conversations workshop

Our Climate Conversations story featured on 20th October's Border Mail, with the electronic link here:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4237244/no-silence-on-science/?cs=11>

A few years ago George Marshall's video clip, 'How to talk to a climate denier', was doing the rounds. George is from the UK and one of the world's foremost climate communication experts. It runs for 20 minutes but we think it's well worth it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qp-nJKBwQR4>

US election

The United States has chosen Donald Trump as their next president. Time will tell whether his actions follow his words during his campaign. Certainly his acceptance speech struck a different note from his pre-election divisive bluster. If Mr Trump does repeal any US carbon reduction strategies, it is even more important that Australia and the rest of the world do their utmost to rapidly bring down emissions. So let's do what we can to reduce our own emissions and try to persuade our friends, colleagues and leaders to take appropriate actions.

WATCH meetings

WATCH meets every second month in central Albury. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. Find out more by attending one of our friendly meetings. The next one is on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

Paris climate agreement

Climate change conference delegates uncertain about outcome of Trump's win: Frydenberg

Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg has warned the policies of United States President-elect Donald Trump are causing "a great deal of uncertainty" at the United Nations (UN) climate change conference in Marrakesh.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2016/s4575057.htm>

Donald Trump's stance on climate change will not halt 'unstoppable' global action, Ban Ki-moon says

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-15/trump-wont-stop-climate-change-action-un-ban-ki-moon-hopes/8028300>

Turnbull government, ignoring Trump election, proceeds with Paris climate agreement ratification

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4286229/turnbull-government-ignoring-trump-election-proceeds-with-paris-climate-agreement-ratification/?cs=12>

Climate pollution

Hazelwood- a message from Environment Victoria

Well, it's finally happening. French company Engie has announced that Hazelwood power station will close in March 2017. Hazelwood's closure makes room for clean energy investment and sustainable jobs in new industries. It's a critical step in tackling global warming and now we need more support for the Latrobe Valley community. <http://environmentvictoria.org.au/media/hazelwood-closure-landmark-moment-australia%E2%80%99s-clean-energy-transition>

Australia's addiction to coal

The New York Times published an op-ed from Richard Denniss on Australia's Addiction to Coal and the need for a moratorium on new mines. *"Most people would be sceptical of a tobacco company that simultaneously claimed it supported efforts to curb smoking while building a new cigarette factory. Yet Australia's politicians say they want to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions while planning to build new coal mines:* <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/15/opinion/australias-addiction-to-coal.html>

'State of the Climate' report – BOM and CSIRO

<https://theconversation.com/state-of-the-climate-2016-bureau-of-meteorology-and-csiro-67717>

Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au>

Ecoportal is your online directory, listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

So many people are now finding out what's going on in the region thanks to this great website. You can also subscribe to weekly and monthly updates. Check out the November calendar to see just how jam packed it's been. And it's not over yet!

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-11/>

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-12/>

Follow *Ecoportal* on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

Selected Sustainable Living Festival events

Elmwood sustainable building tours, Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th November, 1 - 3pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/elmwood-sustainable-building-tour/>

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4301895/sustainable-homes-open-their-doors/?cs=11>

Free film night - How to Let Go, 7-9pm Wednesday 30th November, Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island.

Join us for a screening of this award winning documentary. In *How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change*, Oscar Nominated director Josh Fox ([GASLAND](#)) investigates climate change – the greatest threat our world has ever known. Travelling to 12 countries on 6 continents, the film acknowledges that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, what is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away? Stay for an insightful cuppa and chat post screening. Tickets are essential and are available via Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/movie-discussion-how-to-let-go-of-the-world-tickets-29563724897>

For more information, visit: www.sustainableactivitycentre.com.au

Climate Visions – designing for uncertain futures for the Albury Wodonga region, Albury Library Museum until 30th November

Climate Visions showcases landscape design projects developed by final year students from RMIT University. These projects address the impacts of climate change and how to adapt:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4300029/planning-a-city-for-fires-and-floods/?cs=11>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. The word limit has been reduced to 380. Please keep the articles coming as more are always required. Send them to Karen Bowley: kbowley53@gmail.com

More excellent articles this month:

- [Turtles in Trouble](#) By Gill Baker, Wangaratta Sustainability
- [People Powered Economy: A Forum On Social Enterprise](#) By Dr Helen Masterman Smith, Charles Sturt University
- [Gardening the Wicking Bed Way](#) By Sue Slater, Birallee Park Neighbourhood House
- [Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Festival 2016](#) By Amber Rodd, Energy & Sustainability Officer, AlburyCity
- [Deepwater Horizon: Beyond the Hollywood Movie](#) By Chris Halburd, B Lab Europe Advisory Board Member and Solicitor at Skinner & Associates

Sustainable living

The shop where everything is free - ABC Goulburn Murray

<https://soundcloud.com/user-386540435/the-shop-where-everything-is-free>

You can learn more here about the Goodlife Community Cooperative – The Commons, Mate Street, North Albury: <http://goodlifecoop.wix.com/home>.

Saint Monday - ABC Goulburn Murray

Find out how this cafe in Yackandandah cuts down on waste. A great interview with Lauren Salathiel:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-386540435/saint-monday-aiming-to-be-a-waste-free-cafe>

Coffee cup lids

A disturbing article:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-03/takeaway-coffee-cups-piling-up-in-landfill/7136926>

Can, bottle, bag litter fight ready to ramp up

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4243674/can-bottle-bag-litter-fight-ready-to-ramp-up/?cs=11>

Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

<http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/>

Repair Café Albury-Wodonga is a free meeting place to bring along broken household items and learn how to fix them with the help of experienced, volunteer repairers. First Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm at the Sustainable Activity Centre. There's been some great publicity in the Border Mail recently:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4260477/the-best-thing-since-sliced-bread-all-along/?cs=14>

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4228546/sharpen-up-your-darning-skills/?cs=11>

Renewable energy

Leap of faith into solar energy for FoodWorks as part of Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) project

The power of the sun will be the best way for Yackandandah FoodWorks to refrigerate its products, thanks to 302 new solar panels on the roof, enough to cater for about 25 per cent of its total electricity use. It is the latest move in Yackandandah's goal to have the town become totally reliant on renewable energy by 2022.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4290100/leap-of-faith-into-solar/?cs=11>

And well done to TRY and RAW Energy for this publicity in the BM:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4249573/hostile-attitude-to-solar-funding/?cs=11>

Renewables are uniting councils and communities

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4273964/renewables-are-uniting-councils-and-communities/?cs=14>

Community Energy Congress in Melbourne, 27th-28th February 2017

The premier event on Australia's community energy calendar will bring together over 500 people to strengthen this budding sector. Find out more at <http://c4ce.net.au/congress/> To be held at Melbourne Town Hall [Register now!](#)

System black – Radio National 'Background Briefing'

When a massive storm ripped through South Australia the state went into 'system black'. With the blackout barely hours old it became a political football. David Lewis investigates

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2016-11-06/7987562>

Take action – a message from Yes2Renewables

Former Liberal party leader John Hewson branded efforts to blame renewable energy for the faults in South Australia as "irresponsible". [Join our call for PM Malcolm Turnbull *end the blame game and back the community's vision for a renewable energy future!*](#)

Local food and gardens

Kids find out how the garden grows

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4277318/kids-find-out-how-the-garden-grows/?cs=11>

Wicking beds are the way of future

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4264115/wicking-beds-are-the-way-of-future/>

Cash carrot for garden venture

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4252604/cash-carrot-for-garden-venture/?cs=11>

Radio National gems

Climate of emotion - Earshot - ABC Radio National

Here is an excellent two part story on ABC RN - Climate of Emotion. It discusses some of the despair being experienced by climate scientists and activists in a very real and raw way. The second part focusses on hope and includes a Climate for Change dinner: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-07/climate-change-activists-organise-dinners-to-save-the-planet/7992282>

- **Climate of despair** <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/climate-of-emotion:-despair/7880378>
- **Climate of hope** <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/climate-of-emotion:-hope/7881746>

Good news stories

Local council elections

Firstly, Amanda Cohn was elected Deputy Mayor of Albury City and now Jenny O'Connor takes over as Mayor of Indigo Shire. Both women are progressive leaders determined to act on climate change: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4285360/greens-snap-up-another-mayoral-gig/?cs=11>

Meet the tiny towns taking on climate change

<http://grist.org/living/meet-the-tiny-towns-taking-on-climate-change/>

The Australian not-for-profit working to light up India

For the past four years one Australian not-for-profit firm—Pollinate Energy—has been working to find a safer solution to light up India's tent cities and slums after sunset.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/the-australian-not-for-profit-lighting-up-india/7982436>

Quote of the month

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." Barack Obama.

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. The final one for the year is due out on Wednesday 21st December.

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies

WATCH website Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>